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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Draft report

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Chapter I
Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has identified the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action set out below and, through the Economic and Social Council, recommends that States, entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector and non-governmental organizations assist in their realization.

2. It is the understanding of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum that those proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the United Nations, as set out below, will be implemented to the extent that resources from the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources are available.

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum
Outcome of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

3. The Permanent Forum notes that some States have developed national institutions to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, such as ombudsmen, ministries and presidential councils, in addition to providing for the constitutional recognition of indigenous peoples and their proportional representation at various levels of government. Likewise, many United Nations agencies have also played an active part in implementing the principle of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples during the implementation of their programmes in various countries.

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4. The Permanent Forum welcomes the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (resolution 69/2), which memorializes the solemn commitments of Member States to the Charter of the United Nations and the rights affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Forum also welcomes the designation by the Secretary-General of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the senior official within the United Nations to coordinate action in follow-up to the outcome document, including the system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration.

5. The Permanent Forum recommends that States, indigenous peoples and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes immediately engage in a consultative process focused on the full and effective implementation of the outcome document at the local, national, regional and international levels. It also recommends that the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs outline and provide a procedure to guarantee the direct participation of representatives of indigenous peoples, including the expert members of the Forum, in the preparation and coordination of the system-wide action plan, with the objective of promoting and protecting the human rights of indigenous peoples and to enhance and increase the coherence of the activities of the United Nations system in that regard. Such specific action should be reported to the Forum at its fifteenth session.

6. The Permanent Forum recommends that the General Assembly consider establishing a new procedure, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, to guarantee the effective participation of representatives of indigenous peoples and, in particular, indigenous governance institutions, in the seventieth session of the Assembly, including a corresponding accreditation mechanism.

7. The Permanent Forum welcomes the fact that the Human Rights Council will initiate a review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in June 2015 and recommends that it do so with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples. Any revised mandate should complement the mandates of the Forum and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

8. The Permanent Forum welcomes the interest expressed at the interactive dialogue on the follow-up to the World Conference held by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on 22 April 2015, in which States and indigenous peoples stressed the importance of repatriating ceremonial objects and human remains. The Forum therefore recommends that States and indigenous peoples establish a working group to prepare a manual of good practice with regard to the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains, with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other United Nations entities, and submit a progress report to the Forum at its fifteenth session.